

BITTER  
CIGAR  
#3



THE  
MOVIE

YUP.

IS  
FINALLY  
BEING  
RELEASED  
NEXT WEEK,  
HUH?

I DIDN'T  
THINK THAT  
THE ORIGINAL  
AUTHOR OF  
THE NOVEL  
COULD'VE  
BEEN MY  
NEIGHBOR.

AHAHA.

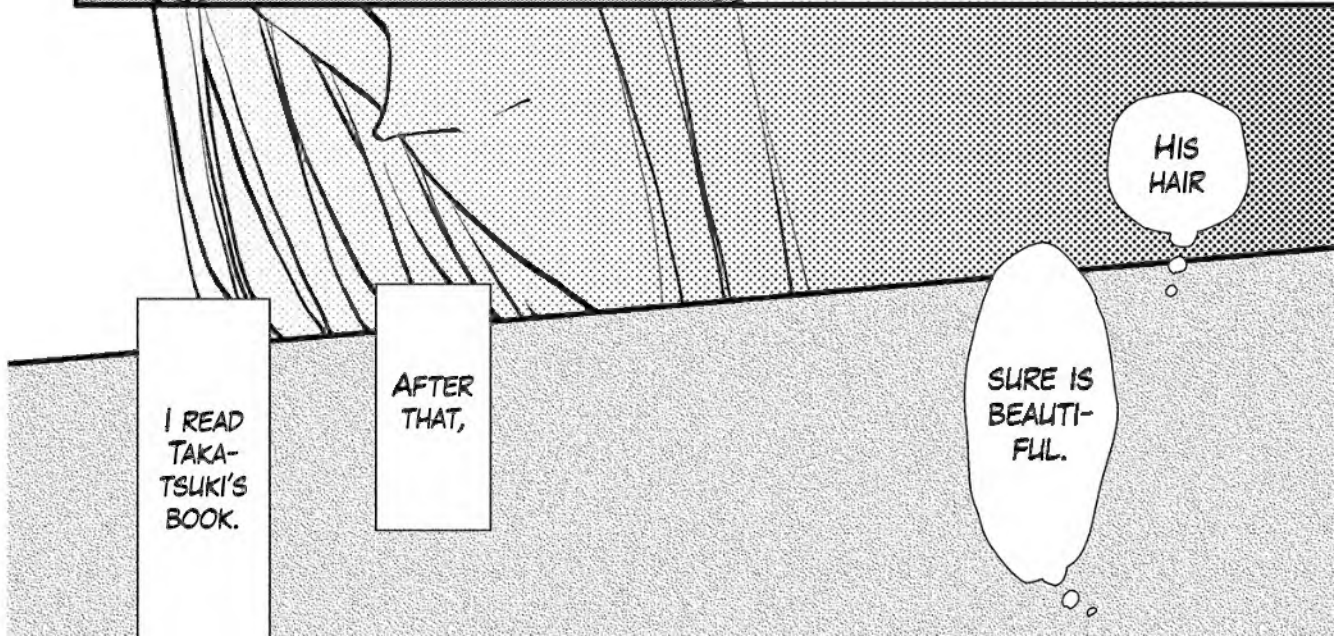
THE  
PRODUCTION  
COMPANY  
WASN'T BIG,  
SO I'M GLAD  
THEY LET ME  
THOUGH TAKE PART IN  
IT'S BE- ALL SORTS  
CAUSE OF WORK,  
OF THAT  
THAT I'M EX-  
HAUSTED!

HAHA.














THE  
STORY WAS  
ABOUT AN  
ORDINARY  
WOMAN  
WHO  
FELL IN  
LOVE WITH  
A MARRIED  
MAN,


IS WHAT  
I ENDED UP  
THINKING.

THAT'S

AFTER ALL,  
IT'S A BOOK  
BY TAKATSUKI  
KAZUYA.

IS  
DIFFERENT  
FROM BOTH  
MALE AND  
FEMALE  
WRITERS.

BUT  
THE WAY  
HE DEPICTS  
THOSE TENDER  
EXPRESSIONS  
AND FEEL-  
INGS.



THOUGH,  
IT COULD  
ALSO JUST BE  
BECAUSE I  
KNOW THE  
WRITER MY-  
SELF.



I  
WONDER...

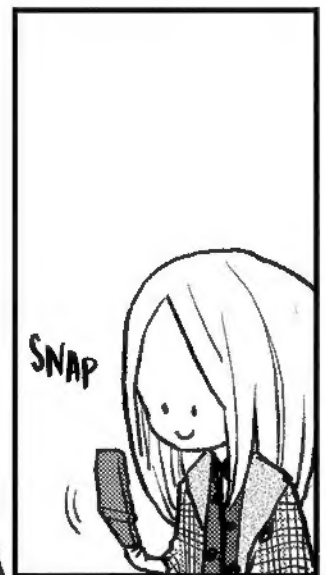
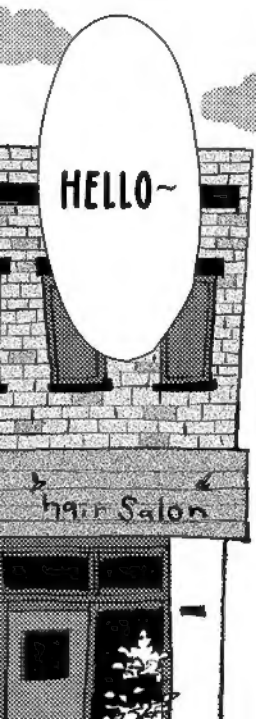
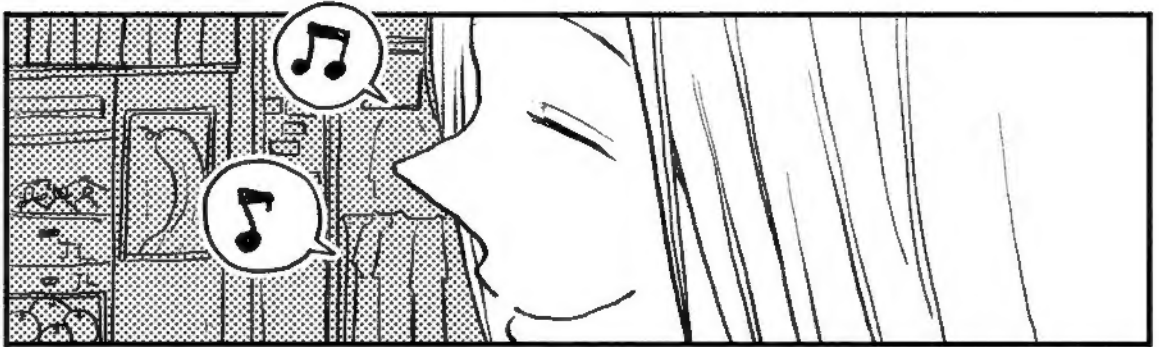
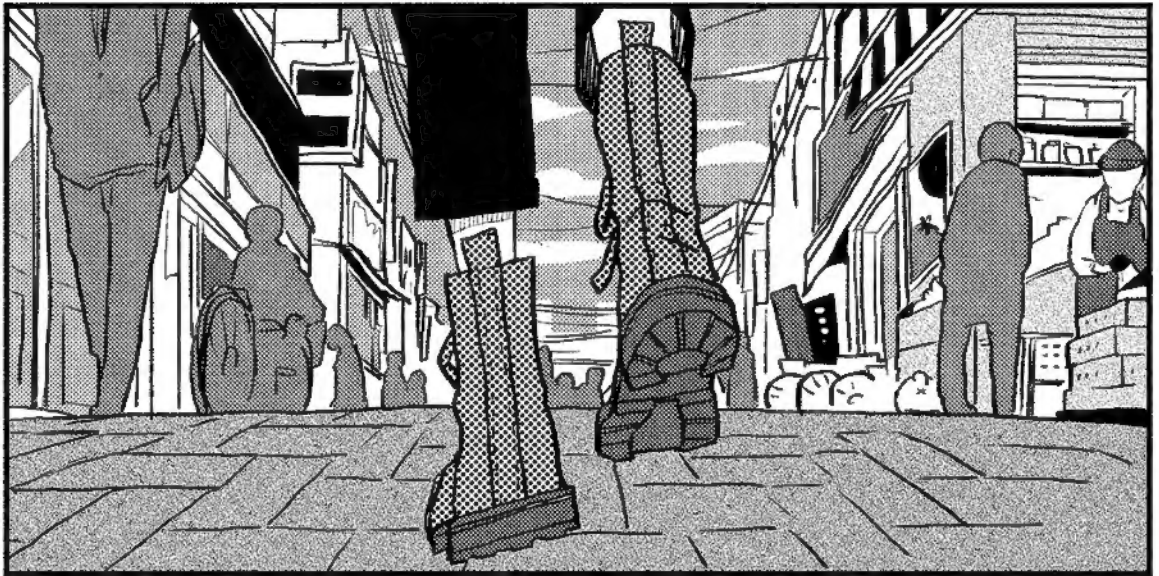
WHAT SORT  
OF ROMANCE  
TAKATSUKI HAS  
EXPERIENCED.



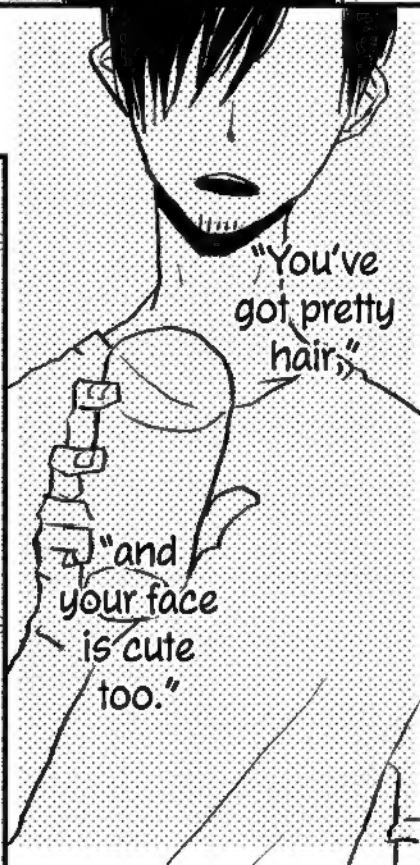
IS  
THAT  
IT?

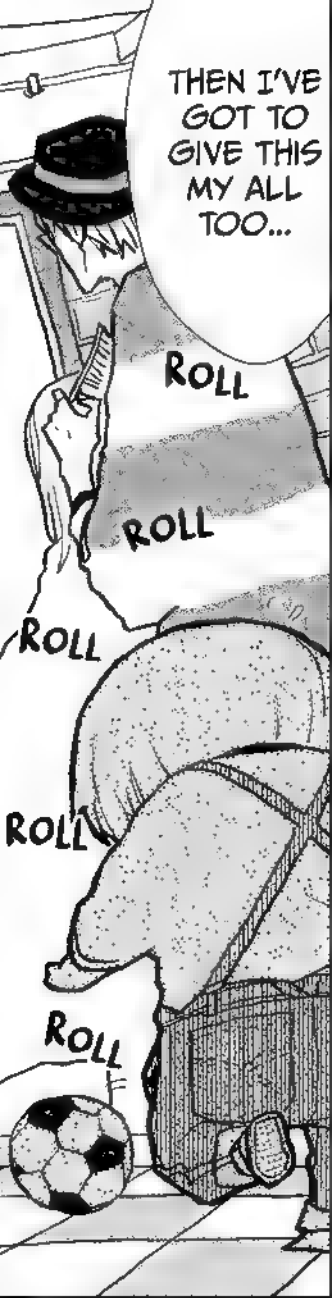
"YOU  
MIGHT NOT  
UNDER-  
STAND."





# WHOOSH





THEN I'VE GOT TO GIVE THIS MY ALL TOO...

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL



Hmm,

THAT'S NICE!

A reward for finishing my work!

I'M GOING OUT FOR DRINKS TODAY~

I'VE GOTTEN CLOSE TO SOMEONE RECENTLY...



Ah.

Roll!

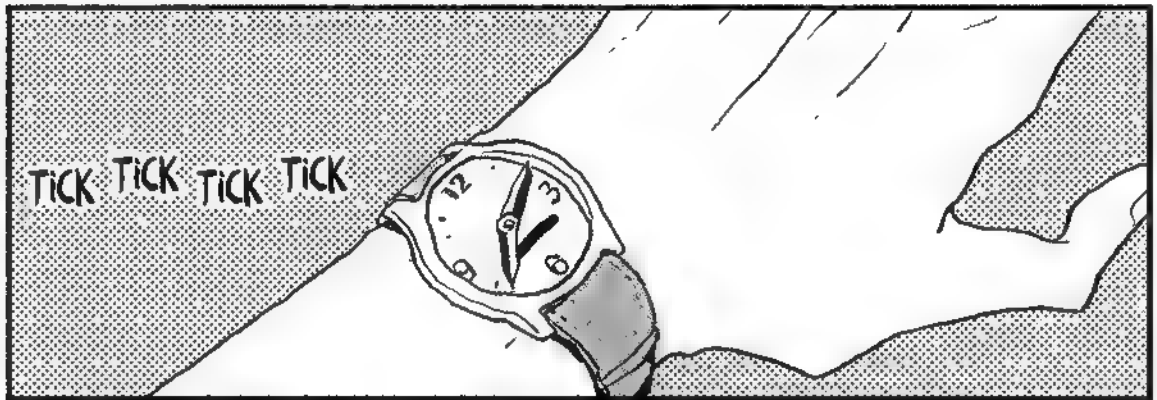


**BAM**

RIGHT!

SNIP





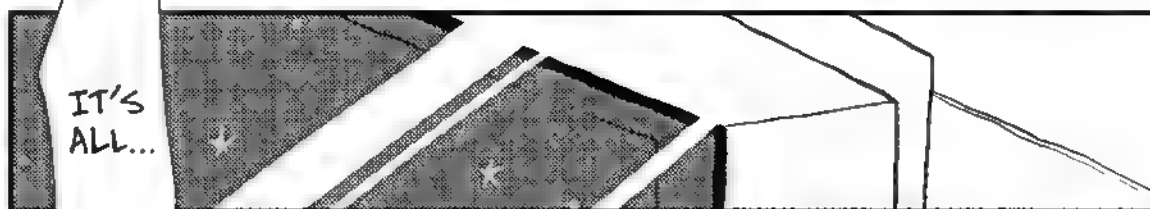
...HE'S  
LATE,  
ISN'T  
HE?





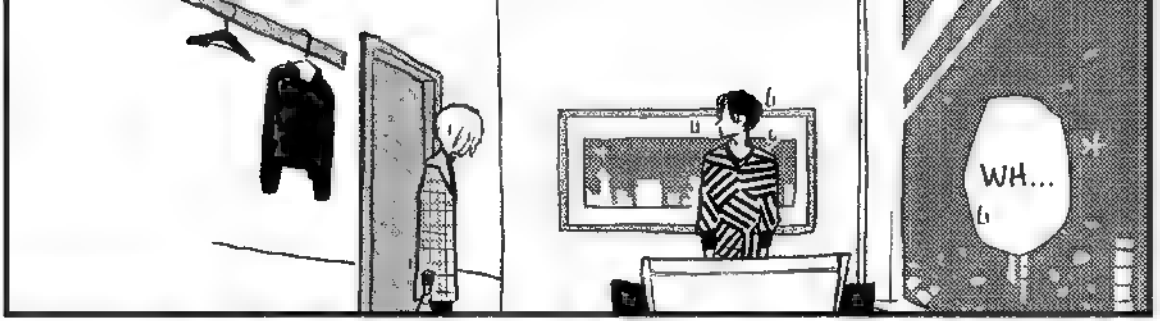
RATTLE

GASP...











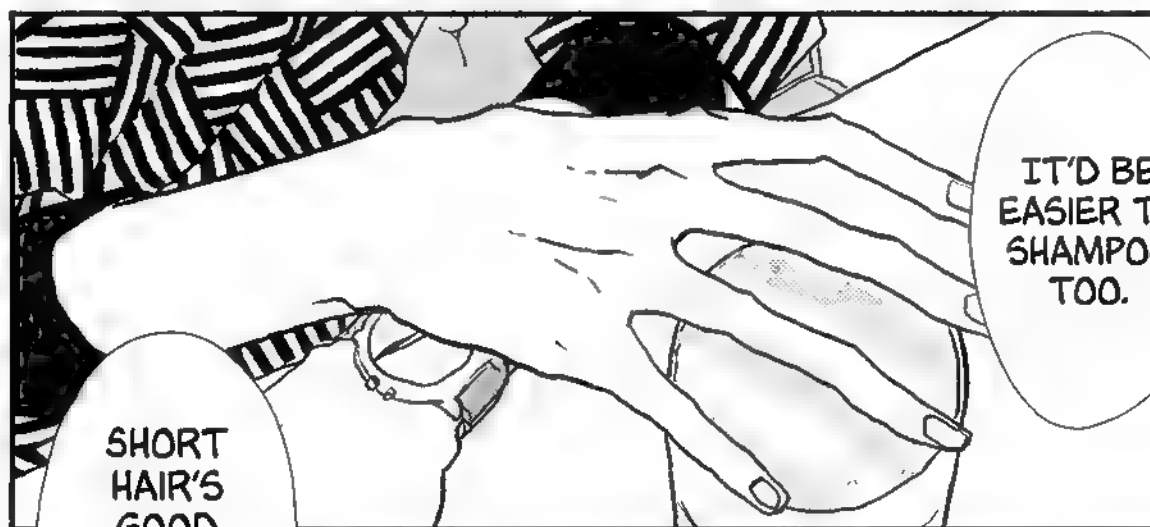
Rather, I feel too conscious about it that I can't say it.

IT'S CUTE.

I WAS THINKING IT MIGHT LOOK BETTER TIDY...

DOES IT... SEEM... WEIRD ...?

NO.



IT'D BE EASIER TO SHAMPOO TOO.

SHORT HAIR'S GOOD TOO, ISN'T IT?



...

**LET'S  
DRINK!**

Huh,  
okay.

**CHEERS!**



...IT'S  
NOTHING.



HUH?

WAS IT  
FOR STRANGE  
A MAN  
TO KEEP  
LONG HAIR  
AFTER  
ALL?



...YOUR  
LONG  
HAIR

**GULP**

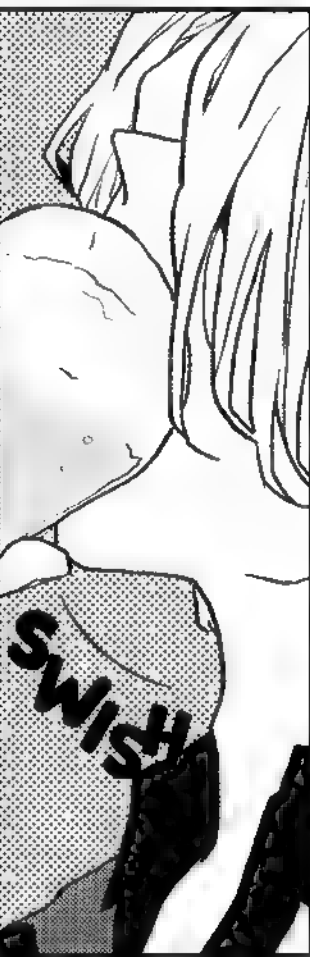


WAS  
REALLY  
BEAUTI-  
FUL,

**GULP**

**GULP**

**GULP**



**SWISH**





SO I  
THINK IT'S  
A WASTE.







TAKATSU...

I  
DIDN'T



CUT  
MY HAIR  
BECAUSE I  
WANTED  
TO.



WHEN  
I WAS A  
KID...



...YEAH.




A KID  
WHO CAME  
INTO THE  
BEAUTY  
PARLOR  
BUMPED  
INTO THE  
HAIRSTYLIST  
WHO WAS  
CUTTING MY  
HAIR...  
AND  
THEN...



BUT MY  
DAD CAUGHT  
ME IN THE  
END AND REP-  
RIMANDED ME  
SEVERELY.

IT  
WAS SO  
LOVELY,  
AND I  
LOVED  
IT SO I  
SECRETLY  
PUT IT ON  
ONCE,

MY  
MOTHER  
HAD THIS  
DRESS WITH  
A BIG RIBBON  
ON IT WHICH  
SHE'D OFTEN  
WEAR.



I DIDN'T  
KNOW WHY I  
WAS BEING  
SCOLDED.

THERE'S  
NO REASON  
FOR WANTING  
TO BE COOL  
IF YOU'RE  
A BOY,  
OR  
NEEDING  
TO ACT  
LADYLIKE  
IF YOU'RE  
A GIRL.



AND I  
SIMPLY  
JUST  
WANTED  
TO BE  
CUTE.

I WAS  
DOING  
WHAT I  
LIKED,  
DRESSING  
HOW I  
LIKED,

IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
I WANTED  
TO BE A GIRL  
OR ANY-  
THING.



THE  
DRESS  
WITH THE  
RIBBON  
TO ME.

WAS  
PROBABLY

MY  
LONG  
HAIR





EVEN  
THOUGH  
I'M A  
MAN.

I  
WONDER  
IF IT'S  
STRANGE  
FOR ME  
TO WANT  
TO BE  
CUTE



TAKA-  
TSUKI...



THE HAIR-  
STYLIST

AND  
THE KID'S  
MOM ALL  
APOLO-  
GIZED A  
BLUNCH.

IT  
WASN'T  
ANY-  
ONE'S  
FAULT.

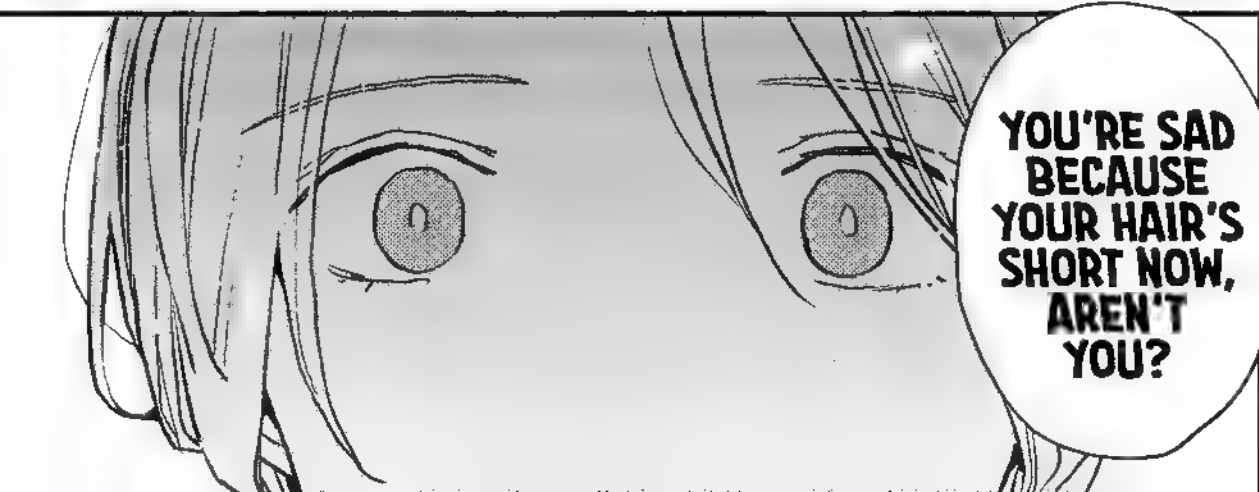
...DON'T  
HOLD BACK.  
IF YOU  
FEEL LIKE  
CRYING,  
THEN JUST  
CRY.

Huh?  
BUT

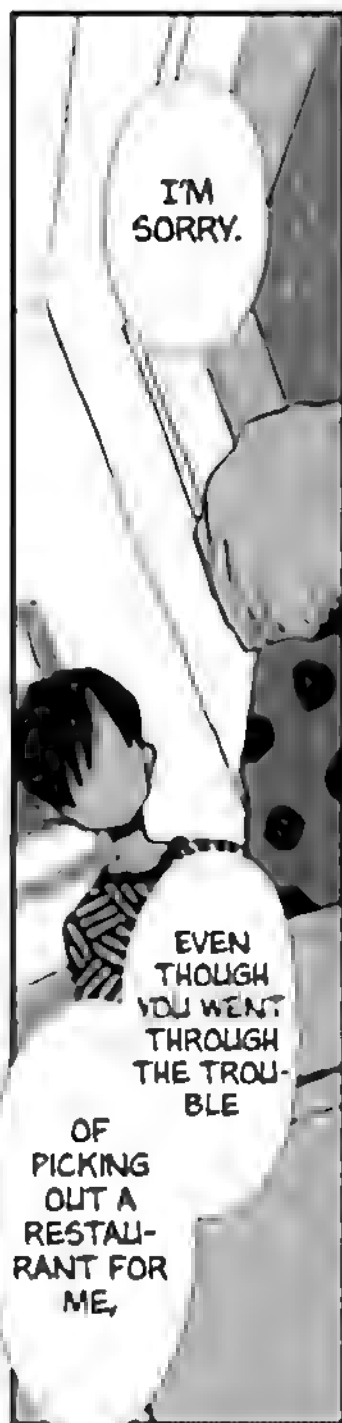


YEAH,

BUT



YOU'RE SAD  
BECAUSE  
YOUR HAIR'S  
SHORT NOW,  
AREN'T  
YOU?



I'M  
SORRY.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
YOU WENT  
THROUGH  
THE TROU-  
BLE

OF  
PICKING  
OUT A  
RESTAU-  
RANT FOR  
ME,



YEAH...



YEAH...



MY  
HAIR...



IS  
SHORT  
NOW.





IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER.



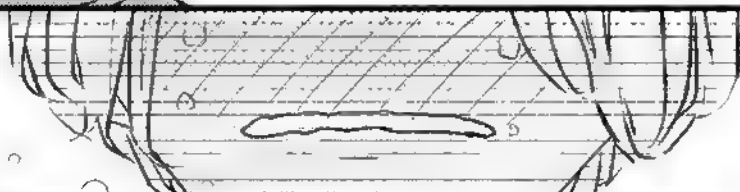
EVEN  
IF YOUR  
HAIR'S  
LONG  
  
OR  
SHORT,



YOU'RE  
CUTE.



HE'S  
KINDA...





HUH?

RATTLE

STEP  
ON A LAND-  
MINE...?

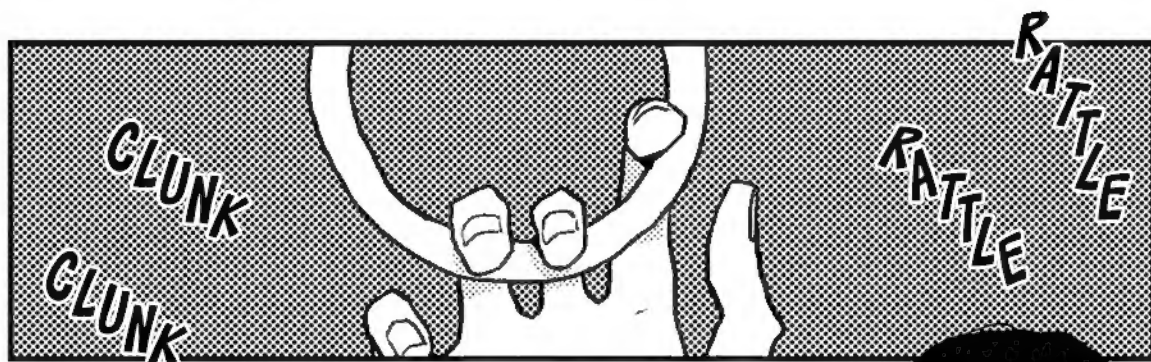
Sorry for  
the wait.

DID  
I









IN THE END,  
HE DIDN'T  
EVEN SEND  
ME A SINGLE  
MESSAGE...

I DIDN'T  
LOOK FOR  
HIM, AND HE  
DIDN'T LOOK  
LIKE HE WAS  
HEADING  
HOME  
EITHER.

RATTLE  
CLUNK



HM?

I  
DIDN'T  
THINK

HE'D  
PULL A  
FACE LIKE  
THAT.



RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE